



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on 2019.35 Family return to Afghanistan**

Requested by Gabor Veto on 13 March 2019

### **Protection**

Responses from EMN NCP Luxembourg, EMN NCP Sweden, EMN NCP Lithuania, EMN NCP Belgium, EMN NCP Slovakia, EMN NCP Latvia, EMN NCP Austria, EMN NCP Germany, EMN NCP Spain (9 in total)

#### **Disclaimer:**

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*



## **Background information:**

The Immigration and Asylum Office of Hungary looks forward to explore the best practices of the member states regarding the return of Afghani families to their home country along the following questions:

## **Questions**

- 1. Does your MS return (both forced and voluntary) Afghani families to Afghanistan?**
- 2. In case your MS returns families, is there any limitation on the age of the children returning? Does your MS return single mothers with children?**
- 3. In case of returning families, does your MS need to prepare any special documentation in order to hand the family over to the Afghani authorities?**

## **Responses**

### **EMN NCP Luxembourg**

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Adolfo SOMMARRIBAS, EMN statelessness platform*

1. No.
2. N/A.
3. N/A.

### **EMN NCP Sweden**

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Marie BENGTSSON, EMN NCP Sweden*

1. Only voluntary
2. Return regarding families with children or single mothers with children is only done in a voluntarily way.
3. When return regarding these groups is only done voluntarily this is not needed. Another thing is that the family might need to visit the Afghan Embassy in order to arrange with travel documents.

## EMN NCP Lithuania

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Vytautas EŽERSKIS, EMN NCP Lithuania*

1. In recent years, there were no cases of return to Afghanistan. Therefore, there is no current practice in Lithuania. Generally, decisions are taken on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case.

2. N/A

3. N/A

## EMN NCP Belgium

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*david VOGEL, EMN NCP Belgium*

1. Only voluntarily. No forced return for families (only single men).

2. No limitation on the age. If a single mother with children is willing to return, we can facilitate its return.

3. No hand over to Afghani authorities when voluntary return.

## EMN NCP Slovakia

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Simona MESZAROSOVA, EMN NCP Slovakia*

1. Yes, however in case of families with children, voluntary return is preferred option.

2. No age limitations if it is the best interest of child to stay with the family. The return of single mothers is possible however, the best interest of child is always considered.

3. No further/specific documentation needed. However, Slovak Republic generally does not have a lot of experience with returning Afghan nationals.

## EMN NCP Latvia

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Stanislavs LOPATINSKIS, EMN NCP Latvia*

1. Neither voluntary returns nor forced returns of Afghan families to Afghanistan carried out by Latvia in 2017, 2018.

2. N/A

3. Latvian legislation defines the obligation for the State Border Guard to provide hand over only for unaccompanied minor foreigner to his family member, guardian/legal representative or authority responsible for in the third country (country of return).

### **EMN NCP Austria**

Wider Dissemination: No

### **EMN NCP Germany**

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Jens Radeke,*

1. No families, minors or women have been returned to AFG (no forced returns) since the beginning of the regular implementation of repatriation measures under AFG on the basis of a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AFG at the end of December 2016. There is therefore no practical experience with the repatriation of (single) mothers and children. Voluntary return to AFG include families with children. In 2018, a total of 10 families with children returned to AFG using the REAG/GARP programme. The voluntary returnees can make use of a variety of support services. For details, please refer to the country informations from the portal Returning from Germany. <https://www.returningfromgermany.de/en/countries/afghanistan>

2. No, see answer to one.

3. No, see answer to one.

### **EMN NCP Spain**

Wider Dissemination: Yes

*Gladys Roy Chicharro, EMN NCP Spain*

1. No. We don't.

2. N/A

3. N/A